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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 147
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July 21, 2010



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COULD ASHFORD BECOME A NEW AMSTERDAM?

COULD Ashford be Kent's answer to Amsterdam or Cambridge when it comes to cycling?

Stephen Bournier, chairman of Ashford Deraillours which promotes cycling for teenagers, said: "Ashford has the potential to be somewhere similar to Cambridge."

"The town already has a good cycling network and we are working with Kent Highways on a strategy to create new links. We want to ensure that the new growth areas in the town have a commitment to cycling when they are developed and they link to what is already there with clear strategic routes into the town."

"We would like to achieve Cycling

■ BY ED HILL

England status. This can provide quite a lot of funding. If that money became available again we feel we have the potential to be successful because people are really into cycling here and we are beginning to get the infrastructure in place. We want to make cycling an easy choice for people."

Ashford council recently gave the go ahead for the Willesborough Dykes cycle route which would connect the Designer Outlet to Park Farm, although funding for such projects is increasingly uncertain under the new Government keen to cut costs.

Two projects one linking Park Farm and Christ Church School and another in Tenterden have recently been

put on hold by Kent County Council.

However, Kent Highways cycling strategy for Ashford hopes for a five per cent increase in the number of people cycling to work by 2015.

One man hoping cycling has a bright future is pensioner John Reeves. He is promoting electric-assisted bikes.

He said: "I have used one for the past three years. It is a joy to use Ashford's 28 miles of traffic free cycle paths through the heart of town."

Mr Reeves is trying to encourage staff and visitors to the William Harvey Hospital to join the Government's Cycle to Work scheme. The idea offers tax breaks to get more people to cycle to work.

He said: "There is a fantastic future

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY? YOU DECIDE

Tenterden is enjoying free parking after a section of the Recreation Ground Road car park was cordoned off and the meter removed.

The area is owned by Zetbova Investments Ltd, which had been leasing it to Ashford council.

With the lease up and no new deal in sight, the council's car park now has an oasis of free spaces where tickets and traffic wardens are a thing of the past.

Drivers pondered whether to chance their arm for a free space or pay the usual rate. The move has been described as "a gesture of goodwill".



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your lifestyle

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Construction under way on new-look town centre

■ BY ED HILL

WORK has begun on a new road designed to transform the town centre and attract developers.

Victoria Way is expected to take pressure off the ring road by giving drivers another route to A28 and Great Chart from the station.

But Judith Armitt managing director of Ashford's Future says the scheme is intended to be more than just a relief road.

She said: "It is also about opening up brownfield land south of the railway line for development. It is in a fantastic location where we want to see offices and homes. At the moment much of the area is land locked. Once the road is built I expect to see an acceleration of the development."

Victoria Way will be a tree-lined avenue extending from the existing Victoria Road.

Shelter

The route will include a new 'Wallis Square' meant as a meeting and socialising area that will also slow traffic as it passes Victoria Road Primary School.

However, a specially designed shelter for the square has been put on hold after councillors complained about the design and expensive maintenance costs. But Ms Armitt said the scheme will not be as costly as the shared space stretch of the ring road.

She said: "The street furniture will not be as expensive but it will be a high-quality design. The wide pavements mean you can have cafés and restaurants and create a lively atmosphere that will attract young people."

In time the road will form the southern boundary to the area of new buildings to the south of the rail-



TOWN CENTRE REVAMP: (l-r) Carol Bursley, head teacher, Victoria Road Primary School; Katherine Davies, Homes & Communities Agency; Cllr Paul Clokie, chairman of Ashford's Future Partnership Board; Cllr David Brazier, deputy cabinet member for Highways, Environment and Waste, KCC; Cllr Bernard Heyes, Godinton ward member; Cllr Allen Wells, Mayor of Ashford, and Judith Armitt, managing director, Ashford's Future

way line. Planners hope 1,300 new homes and 1,100 jobs will be created there by 2021.

There are also plans to upgrade the footbridge over the railway line into what is called the learning link.

Lib Dem Cllr for the ward Robert Packham said: "People are generally pleased about the road. It will take congestion away from the town centre."

"The area needs brightening up a bit but some people are sad about it being called John Wallis Square. They would have preferred Victoria Square. John Wallis does not mean that much to people in the area."

Traffic disruption will be minimal; as most of the road will be built on undeveloped land. Work is expect-

ed to be finished by March next year.

The project has secured £16.5 million of funding from central government. It will be built by contractor VolkerFitzpatrick and will be overseen by Kent Highways, Ashford's Future and the Homes and Communities Agency.

Alistair Thompson, director of VolkerFitzpatrick, said: "This is a really exciting project which will provide improved public access and facilities to residents of the town."

"In order to do this the my team will be working in close proximity to shops and residential areas so we will ensure that the local community is kept up to date with progress of the project and any potential disruption it may cause."

Police to crackdown on woodland vandals

VANDALS have sprayed trees, defaced signs and spread litter at Dering Woods.

The damage appears to have happened between the end of June and July 8.

Neighbourhood officer PCSO Paul Moorey said: "Several old oak trees, signs and perimeter fencing have been damaged by graffiti."

"The signs will need to be replaced and graffiti removed if possible. There are also large amounts of litter left in the wood and a couple of campfire sites."

"The majority of people use this wood to walk in and enjoy. There seems to be a minority who use the woods for overnight camping and nuisance behaviour causing damage to a popular area."

PCSO Moorey is now in discussion with the Woodland Trust, the charitable organisation which manages the woodland, to look at ways to protect the area.

If you have any information about the damage contact police on 01622

Colleagues plant tree in ecologist's memory

A TREE has been planted in North Park in memory of a former local ecology advisor.

Liz Walker worked at Ashford council as a Landscape and Ecology Officer. Her colleagues donated money to buy and plant the tree and erect a memorial plaque.

Planning Officer Minnie Ngaluafé said: "She was very passionate about trees so it seemed appropriate to plant one in her memory."

Ms Walker died in February after a short battle with cancer. She had worked in the planning department since 1998.

Since her death, colleagues have also raised £767 for Race for Life in her memory.

For many years Ms Walker provided advice to residents and developers on landscape and tree issues and was well-known for both her passion and expertise.

Friends, family and colleagues attended the planting of the Alnus Glutinosa 'Imperialis' tree in the park.

'I see town becoming another Amsterdam'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT
for these machines. I can see Ashford becoming another Amsterdam or Cambridge, with almost everyone contributing to a greener environment."

Road Campaigner Ted Prangnell has long pushed for better bike routes.

He said: "Ashford's cycleways are better than they were, but there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done around the town to improve safety. We need intelligent thinking, to join up the missing links."

The 76-year-old said routes from surrounding villages to Ashford needed improving.

He said: "So many people complain to me that they perceive cycling as being too dangerous. By European standards we still have a lot to do."

"In cycle lanes in Belgium or Germany you never come across an area when the lane just stops and you are back on the road."

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Rush for free spaces in row over parking

EXCLUSIVE

BY ED HILL

SHOPPERS in Tenterden couldn't believe their luck last week when they suddenly found they could get free parking.

The 57 space freebie came as a result of a negotiation breakdown between the owners of the car park and Ashford council.

Until Tuesday the car parking area on Recreation Ground Road, behind the town's Waitrose store, was leased to the borough council which charged for parking.

But last week barriers suddenly appeared sectioning off an area of the car park, the parking meter was removed and a sign put up inviting people to park for free.

Spaces

One shopper using the car park said: "I couldn't believe it. It's so unusual to get anything for free these days."

Visitors to Tenterden can now either pay the council charge of 80 pence per hour in the council part of the car park, or try their luck at grabbing one of the free spaces.

The land is owned by Zetbova Investments Ltd, a company run by local property owners the Edmonds brothers who also manage and own the nearby London Beach Hotel. The family includes the former England Test Match cricketer Phillippe Edmonds.



DECISION: Shoppers have the choice between paying 80p in council car park, or trying their luck for a free space

The company has planning permission to develop the land.

The situation has highlighted the cost of parking in the town.

One shop owner who did not wish to be named said: "This is the best thing that could have happened. People are put off coming to Tenterden because of the cost of parking. Ashford council have kept putting it up recently and I seem to get a ticket every week just trying carry out my business."

A spokesman for Ashford council said: "The council has, until recently, leased the top section, which comprises 57 spaces, from Zetbova

Investments Limited to increase the available car parking.

"However, negotiations to renew the lease for the 57 spaces at a financially viable rate have not been successful and Ashford Borough Council has, at Zetbova Investments solicitor's request, erected barriers between its land and that of the landlord and taken the ticket machine out of use."

Ashford council business manager, Kirsty Hogarth, added: "We apologise for the inconvenience caused to our car park customers and will continue to try to negotiate the reinstatement of the car parking spaces."

Festival set for biggest crowd

THIS year's Create Festival in Victoria Park will be the biggest yet according to organisers.

Headlining the festival on the Audio Energy Main Stage will be the Green Day tribute act Green Date.

The festival on Sunday is expected to attract more than 5,000 people through the day.

Along with the usual array of stalls and entertainment to accompany the music, there will be a Regency Bar and a hog roast throughout the day.

The park will have seven gated entrances for security, and as a condition of entry absolutely no glass bottles will be allowed on site.

The full list of acts has been yet to be confirmed but some new bands have been added to the already strong mix of talent.



HEADLINING: Tribute

act Green Date

Lead singer and guitarist with Green Date Joe Mills said: "We have a huge gig list and festival tour this year, but it is always special to play in front of 5,000 people who have come along simply to enjoy a huge friendly gathering in one place."

Kent singer-songwriter Nic Bennett who plays the Regency Events 'Far Out Tent' at 3pm said: "I am excited about playing Create this year - not just because I'm on the bill, but I am a huge fan of Underground Heroes who are the penultimate act on the main stage. It will be a case of playing my set before nipping to watch theirs."

There will also be the Annex DJ tent and the Right Track Music stage. The festival runs from 12 to 8pm.

• For more information on Create visit <http://www.myspace.com/createfestival>

Did you help woman who had collapsed?

POLICE are hunting a Good Samaritan who had helped who had collapsed in the Ashford town centre hours before she would become a murder victim.

Susie Beany, 50, was found in alley between Christchurch Road and Godfrey Road, South Ashford, on April 29 this year.

She had fatal knife wounds and died later in hospital.

But this week police revealed the woman, who was found stabbed at 6.40pm, had received medical attention in the town centre earlier that day.

Mrs Beany, who was also known as Susie Smith, had collapsed outside the Tufton Street post office at around 1.30pm.

A kind-hearted woman wearing a green top had helped her and stayed until an ambulance arrived.

And it is that woman that police wish to speak to to piece together the events leading up to Mrs Beany's death.

If you think this could be you or you recognise the woman, police would like to hear from you. Call 01634 884010 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

■ **Steven Brooker, 42, from Ashford, has been charged with Susie Beany's murder.**

Drink driver who killed two has appeal rejected

A JAILED drunk driver who killed two people and disabled a 12-year-old girl for life has had an appeal against his sentence rejected.

Stefan Stanko was given a ten-year prison sentence in January.

His silver Nissan Primera mounted the pavement in Beaver Road last September, ploughing into a group of friends who were making their way home after a night at the International Sports and Social Club nearby.

The 25 year old from Gravesend was found to be twice over the drink drive limit, hours after the crash when he was arrested by police.

He had drunk a whole bottle of whiskey, and cherry brandy, and still decided to drive despite friends hiding the car keys and trying to persuade him not to.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop after an accident and driving with excess alcohol.

On Wednesday an appeal case was heard at the High Court in London in front of three top judges.

They ruled the Slovakian's jail term was neither wrong in principle, or excessive, and the appeal was dismissed.

But he could serve as little five



OVER THE LIMIT: Stefan Stanko drove into a group of friends as they left a social club

years if his sentence is reduced for good behaviour.

Friends and relatives of Denise Head, 49, and Brian Moon, 67, who were killed by Stanko had written a petition saying his sentence should not be reduced. Rosie Brown was a pupil at the Towers School at the time of the crash.

The 12 year old suffered severe brain damage and is now in a wheelchair and will need continual care and support.

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Brogdale Collections will also be co-ordinating self guided walks giving visitors the opportunity to take a leisurely stroll around the beautiful grounds and spend time enjoying the orchards. Charges for the orchard walks are £5.00 adults, £4.50 concessions, £2.50 children and families £12.50. Entry to all other activities is free of charge.

For more information please contact Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre on 01795 532385.

Entry to the event and activities will be **FREE** but numbers will be limited for the bat walk and will need to be booked in advance. Please book early to avoid disappointment either by ringing the number above or emailing us at info@kmbrc.org.uk





SAVING LIVES: The Hazardous Area Response Team can deliver emergency care in difficult and dangerous places

Specialist team gets to the HART of an emergency

IF KENT is the scene of a terrorist attack or suffers major fire, a high-tech team based in Ashford will be helping to save lives in the most dangerous situations.

The South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust has set up what is called a Hazardous Area Response Team or HART.

Manager Matthew England said: "The team will allow patients who are trapped, or in areas previously deemed unsafe for ambulance staff to enter, the opportunity to receive clinical care at a much earlier stage than has been previously possible.

"Traditionally, at certain incidents, the ambulance service relies on firefighters making the scene safe before entering or has to wait for fire crews to bring patients to us.

"Fire crews will of course still perform this vital role, but HART clinicians will be able to help remove patients from smoke-filled environments, for example."

The 40-strong team, based at a temporary site at Brookfields Industrial Estate, will also cover emergencies in Sussex and Surrey.

They have undergone 10 weeks intensive training so they can use specialist vehicles, breathing apparatus and gas-tight chemical suits. They will also be trained to treat people injured at an emergency in a marine environment.

■ BY ED HILL

Ashford has been chosen as first location for the service because it is easy to get to other parts of the region from the town. The HART team will move to a permanent base in Ashford next year.

The medics have already attended their first major incident, when a fire broke out in a post office in Staplehurst High Street last Wednesday morning and 10 residents had to be evacuated.

Head of emergency preparedness at the trust, Andy Parr, said: "The members have been working very hard over the past months to develop new skills in this new, exciting and necessary role.

"It will mean that ambulance clinicians are now able to reach patients at the point where care needs to be delivered and to further influence the outcome of many of our patients."

HART is a national initiative funded by the Department of Health.

SECamb Chief Executive Paul Sutton added: "We are of course already trained and experienced in dealing with major incidents. However, the introduction of HART enhances that experience and capability.

"It is a valuable addition for the Trust and will provide a fantastic service across our region."

Children make living poppy appeal

CHILDREN of St Mary's Church of England School made a giant, living poppy in the grounds of Chilham Castle recently.

The event was aimed to get more people involved in the Poppy appeal each year.

Jane Taylor, community fundraiser for Kent, said: "Poppies bloom in the summer and the children hope to encourage people to volunteer in this season so they can receive support prior to the Poppy Appeal."

The British Legion is looking for people to devote a couple of hours during the two weeks running up to Remembrance Day to help collect money.

The funds raised help provide support



for servicemen/women and their families, trying to rebuild their lives.

The people of Kent donated over £1 million during the appeal last year.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer phone 0800 085 5924 or e-mail jttaylor@britishlegion.org.uk

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Gardening con warning

TRADING Standards officers are warning residents in the South Ashford area to be wary of two bogus gardeners.

In one instance the men charged £250 for gardening services they did not carry out.

The men are described as white and in their late 40s, and they have been using a grey and white pick-up truck.

Trading Standards advise people to be careful when dealing with traders who call at their door.

The law says any contract made between a consumer and a trader at the consumer's home or place of work for more than £35 must have a seven-day cooling-off period.

The trader must supply a cancellation notice with their identity and address on it. Failure to give the notice is an offence.

To find a reputable trader go to www.buy-withconfidence.gov.uk. Report any incidents at www.consumerdirect.gov.uk.

How to save £1 million

THE council is asking residents to help it save a million pounds with an online programme that can show residents how the council budget can be spent.

The challenge is the next stage of the Have Your Say survey. The programme, which went live on Tuesday, gives users a budget which they can spend on a range of public services, such as recycling, arts and culture, grass cutting, parking and youth activity.

Go to www.ashford.gov.uk/save£1million where the consultation can be viewed until August 3.

Skate park partly closed

PART of the Ashford Skate Park has been closed after an inspection by the council's insurer and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents discovered a number of timber frame ramps were not safe.

Metal ramps in the park have been unaffected and are still open for use.

Head of cultural services, Mark Carty, said: "The Ashford Skate Park has become a popular meeting point for young people since 2000, and we are investigating the quickest way of returning it to its former glory."

The Skate Park is next to the Stour Centre in Tannery Lane.

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Simple ways to save energy and cut your bills

NEW homes springing up around Ashford are designed to cut carbon emissions, but householders in older homes can play their part.

I followed Mike Bundy, a surveyor with Creative Environmental Networks, employed by Ashford's Future to offer energy-saving advice to householders.

He was visiting residents in Kennington and Bybrook, taking advantage of a pilot scheme aimed at making more of the town sustainable.

Modern homes conform to the latest building regulations, meaning carbon costs are much lower, but in older properties a few simple measures can cut consumption considerably.

We visited Howard Air, 66, who lives in a 1960s semi-detached bungalow in Bybrook.

His home showed several areas where he could save money. Firstly, the cavity walls had not been insulated. Mike estimated that Mr Air could save as much as £100 pounds a year on his heating for an initial outlay of between £150 to £200.

The former teacher and carer was given a free

■ BY ED HILL

chimney balloon designed to reduce heat loss via his chimney flue, which can be removed when he has an open fire in the winter months.

He also benefited from low-energy light bulbs, a bag that saves a litre of water per flush in the toilet and a hose trigger to save water when watering the garden.

As a single man with relatively low water usage, Mr Bundy said Mr Air would also be advised to install a water meter.

Mr Air, who had lived in the bungalow since 1984, said: "I think this scheme is brilliant for people like me, who may not be aware of the latest things available. Some of us on very low incomes may not even be able to afford the small amount of outlay even for these simple items that can save us money."

We then visited Bishnu and Krishna Gharti, a Gurkha couple with two children who were keen to save money. Since moving to Ashford from America in 2008 they have found living costs high. Their home was already relatively energy efficient; a new condensing boiler had



CUTTING COSTS: Mike Bundy shows Bishnu and Krishna Gharti a meter that will monitor their electricity use

been fitted and the home was well insulated.

However, they were pleased with a free meter that allowed them to monitor how much electricity they use and advice about changing their electricity tariff.

The scheme comes to an end this month but Ashford's Future is hoping to extend it to the rest of the town if it can get more funding.

Laurienne Tibbles, Ashford's Future sustainability manager, said: "This is an easy way to improve the existing housing stock and save people money."

"It is open to everyone. You can be an owner or tenant. The main thing is to make people aware that they can make a difference to climate change."

Police crack down on metal thieves

POLICE spent last Thursday targeting scrap metal yards in the area in a national crack down on metal thefts.

Along with trading standards officers they conducted road checks around scrapyards and handed out forensic marking kits.

Thieves are targeting metal found along railway lines and railway infrastructure, churches, utility sites, hospitals and schools, war memorials and building sites.

There has also been an increase in thefts of catalytic converters from cars and copper cable.

Metal theft is estimated to cost the UK business £770million each year. 0

Colleagues' tribute to charity worker

CHILDREN'S charity Action for Children has paid a tribute to the inspirational work of a former manager of the North Downs project in the town.

Tricia McDade, recently passed away after a battle with cancer. She was manager of the therapeutic programme for children affected by trauma.

Stephen Dabrowski, group manager for the charity in Kent, said: "We have all been deeply shocked and saddened by the loss of Tricia. She was hugely committed to her work, and she made a tremendous difference to so many lives."

"Tricia was highly respected within the children's services sector. She will be deeply missed across the community. Our thoughts are with her family."



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QUESTION & ANSWER

TERRY JOHN



Q What is a Lean Machine?

A Zero emission bikes cost hardly anything to run. The scooters are zero-rated for a road license, it's less than a penny a mile in electricity to run, and there is very little maintenance. They don't produce any noxious gasses at point of use. Because they have two wheels instead of four they take up less space and cause less congestion, so they are lean in several ways.

Q Do electric bikes cost more than normal bikes?

A Obviously an electric bike will cost more than the equivalent specification of pedal cycle because you have got the battery and the motor and the electronics to go with it. But you are getting a lot more for your money.

People can buy electric bikes over the internet for £500. Our cheapest is £800, but everything we do carries a warranty. People can come to the showroom, they can try the bikes and we are here to support them if they need parts or any help. Cheaper bikes are available but I am not happy with the quality of them.

It has taken me ages actually to find a bike I am happy to sell at £800. But we do a range from £800 up to about £2,500.

Q Why did you decide to sell these sorts of bikes?

A I was doing an Open University environmental studies degree and one of my projects

was about personal transport. Speaking as a dyed-in-the-wool sports car enthusiast I came into it with a healthy cynicism. But, while I was doing that, I read an article about some electric scooters in a motorsports magazine and thought it would suit my project.

I wrote to the manufacturer to see if I could get some information. They invited me to a trade show and I asked them whether they had a dealer in Kent and they said no.

So I said: "Do you want one?" I could see there is a movement towards people re-evaluating their travel generally. I'm not saying everyone is going to jump on to two wheels straight away, but I think people are starting to look again at their lifestyles. It just seemed that maybe the time is right. I didn't want to be too late, that is the important thing. I hope I'm not too early!

Q What are the main differences between pedal bikes and electric bikes?

A The great thing about electric bikes is that they allow you to choose how much assistance the motor gives you, so there are some health and lifestyle benefits as well. You can pedal, you can not pedal, or a combination of the two. They flatten hills. I have one friend who has to commute to his railway station for work. He lives in one of the villages outside of Canterbury and his ride included a big hill. He wanted to cycle because it got over the aspect of paying £4 a day to park his car for a two-

mile run, and it also meant when he got to the station he wasn't all hot and sweaty before he had even started the working day.

The other side of the coin is that electric bikes allow access to cycling for those who wouldn't normally be able to cycle. Maybe people who are a bit more mature like myself and whose knees are shot through playing football when I was younger, people maybe who have had a chronic illness who want the mobility, and perhaps people who just want to choose some gentle exercise.

Q What is the difference between petrol and electric scooters?

A I do a whole range of scooters, and the top of the range 62mph ones perform as well as a 125cc or a 250cc petrol bike in terms of power, but in terms of torque, the pulling that gives you the acceleration, they perform way better. They are equivalent to maybe a 600cc petrol bike. Of course there are no gears to worry about so they are very easy to ride, and it is fun. There are advantages in that respect. But the one big thing people talk about is the range. You can't jump on an electric bike and ride to Brighton right now, but the longest range we have on the scooters we do is 80 miles. When people look at their actual journeys they realise they travel that far maybe two or three times a year. Electric bikes are not going to replace petrol cars, but they are part of the answer.

Reporter **Jenny Armstrong** finds out more about Lean Machines which sells zero emissions bicycles, scooters and motorbikes from Canterbury Innovation Centre and why they're a fun and sensible option

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New figures reveal reduction in crime

POLICE say the latest crime statistics for the area have revealed that offences have dropped across the board by 13.2 per cent.

The figures run from April 2009 to March this year.

The actual number of recorded crimes fell from 21,113 to 18,316 which means there were 2,797 fewer incidents.

The number of burglaries at homes across South Kent, which includes Ashford, Dover and Folkestone went down from 893 to 789, a reduction of 104. The region's burglary rate is now the lowest in Kent.

Violent crime went down by 9.8 per cent (470 offences) and robbery has gone down by 13.4 per cent.

Chief Superintendent Chris Hogben, south Kent area commander said: "My officers have taken part in the largest ever community engagement operation and have spoken personally to thousands of local residents to find out about local concerns and tackle them direct. This has led to South Kent achieving the highest increase in public confidence across Kent, and something we will build upon."

"Our Neighbourhood Task Teams in each of our three districts have helped to reduce anti social behaviour in many parts of South Kent and along with neighbourhood officers and PCSOs have identified and dealt with many of the main ring-leaders."

"Our approach to the night-time economy has seen high visibility police patrols and early intervention to prevent disorder and violence in our towns."

The area where policing had the least impact was on drugs with 620 offences down just ten from last year.

Brave Lana finally gets her day with TV chef



TALENTED: 13 year old Lana Foyle (right) spent the day with TV chef Richard Phillips at Chapel Down Vineyard's restaurant in Tenterden

A TALENTED young chef who has battled through a serious heart condition has spent a day improving her skills at the Chapel Down Vineyard's restaurant in Tenterden.

Lana Foyle, 13, was runner up in the 2009 Kent Young Chef of the year competition but had to delay spending a day with TV chef Richard Phillips and his team because of ill health.

She is also a keen athlete and has competed at county and national level in a variety of sports, including gymnastics and the triathlon.

Lana was born with suspected Encephalitis and other complications including a hole in the heart and was taken ill at a sporting event last year when she collapsed complaining of a stomach ache.

The diagnosis showed that the hole in her heart which was expected to have self-healed by the time she was two, had remained and was made worse by the levels of exercise she had done.

Dr Krassemann her surgeon, did not believe Lana had been able to compete in all of her sports until he saw her achievement book with all of the newspaper cuttings in it.

■ BY ED HILL

During the operation in January, Lana's blood flow through the hole in her heart was so strong that the normal implement used to close it could not be put in place and another, stronger style catheter was used.

She was due to spend a day at the restaurant in March but is now fully recovered from the operation.

In the final of the cooking competition she had prepared Kentish Lamb and Pearl Barley Stew from a recipe given to her from her grandmother.

She said, "I spent a lot of time researching a traditional Kentish recipe online but it was my grandmother who gave me the recipe. She is the world's greatest cook... next to Richard Phillips."

Mr Phillips said, "Lana is a very talented girl and achieves what she has set her heart on, so it is great to know that her heart is so much stronger now. Who knows, maybe one day she will be a top chef or athlete or trainer."

Lana's condition will be monitored until adulthood, but Dr Krassemann has insisted when she wins an Olympic Gold Medal she mentions his name in her acceptance speech.

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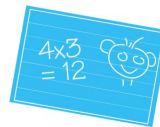
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BREAK TIME

Woodwork display

A FURNITURE studies exhibition at South Kent College in Folkestone featured work from pupils at Wyvern School in Ashford.

The students have been part of the school links initiative with the college for the past year.

Wyvern School educates young people with moderate to severe physical and learning difficulties.

Sixteen students participated in the scheme, making wooden spoons.

The finished work was featured in its own stand alongside Diploma and Degree work by full and part time students at South Kent College.



CHIPPER: Students with their spoons and boats

Junior dance-off

YEAR-6 children at Ashford Oaks School recently took part in a dance-off competition at the International Hotel.

The event was designed to help children make new friends before they move to secondary school.

Children learnt Salsa and Cha Cha then took part in the competition. Ashford Oaks were winners of the trophy.

Elliott Baldock, one of the students, said: "It was really fun, but quite nerve-racking because the judges walked around while you danced."



LIFT OFF: Members of Spacecamp launch a range of rockets to teach a group of youngsters from Towers School about space travel at a special science day during Shine Week

Space day teaches students the appliance of science

■ BY ED HILL

PUPILS at the Towers School got a chance to learn about the technology of space flight last week.

They were visited by members of the group Spacecamp, who launched rockets and taught the Year-8 students about what is required to get men and satellites into space.

As well as watching the rocket launches, the students rode on a space simulator, raced rocket cars and designed their own craft.

Ian Wesson, director of SpaceCamps.co.uk, said: "We've been doing a whole day of enrichment exercises to get young people more interested in science and quality engineering. They've designed their own rockets, studied about harnessing solar power from the sun and learnt about the living conditions in space.

"This is a very hands-on course that appeals to children across a whole range of academic abilities."

Children gathered in the school playing field to watch a series of launches. First with paper rockets to test the wind conditions and then with the five-engine 6ft 'Diamond' rocket, designed to split into two sections and come down by parachute.

During the day the school also had a live video link to the National Space Centre in Leicester which allowed them to track the student's progress.

The event was part of Shine Week at the school, celebrating the achievements of young

people in schools and youth organisations.

The campaign, which was organized by groups such as The Prince Trust and National Youth Agency, has just had its funding cancelled by the new coalition government.

Jan Angrabeit, assistant headteacher at Towers School, said: "I think the children today have seen science and technology in a totally different light. It has been fun and entertaining."

"What I like about events such as today is it takes the learning out of the classroom. And some of the students have even come up to me and said they would like to go into this field in the future, which is really encouraging."

Spacecamp is also part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum for schools.

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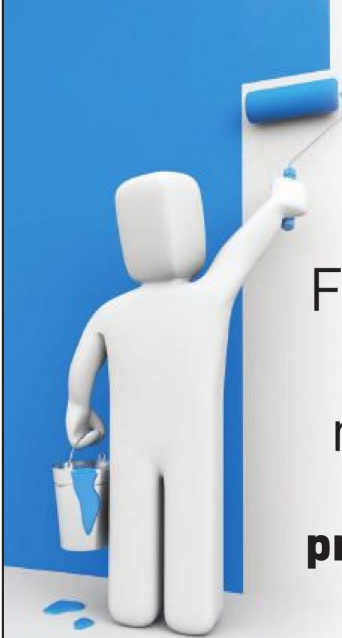
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Show of pride in Kentish ways

■ BY NICK AMES

THOUSANDS flocked to the Kent County Show at the weekend to enjoy a three-day celebration of the very best of the Garden of England.

Prize-winning animals, food and drink, and the latest in farming technology were all on display at the Detling showground during the county's biggest annual event. Young farmers displayed livestock amid much talk about what lies ahead for the agriculture industry.

Changes in the traditional way of life for land workers were plain to see, from modern tractors to mobile horseshoe makers working from the back of a van. Farrier Phil Dunmall, from Yalding, said: "We change with the times. There's no longer a forge in every village. We come to those who need us."



FINE BEAST: Ram's magnificent horns

The only complaint from visitors was about the traffic congestion, with some reportedly taking two hours to get out of the car park, while all traffic on leaving the arena was routed to the M2 roundabout which has several sets of traffic lights, causing further delays. Why Farming Matters was the theme of the event, highlighting the importance of agriculture to the economy.

Farmers emphasised how their work was of continuing importance to the prosperity of rural Kent. Sonia Purchase breeds Hereford

cattle at her farm in Bossingham. She said: "Farming and agriculture is at the heart of Kent. It has been a way of life in the county for centuries and even in these difficult times provides jobs and a future for many."

"The cattle we breed are in quite short supply and we sell our pedigree animals across the UK, ensuring stocks continue to thrive. Agriculture is such a valuable resource to the county." Teacher Francesca Rice is based at the North School, Ashford, which runs its own farm. "It gives the pupils the chance to learn of the relationship between the land and food," she said.

Holly McNicol, from Meopham, was exhibiting her rabbit, Domino, which won first prize in a small animals category. "I help with a school's young farmers' club," she said.

"Young people need to know about the importance of the land in the 21st century."

The eco-village emphasised how environmentally friendly techniques can help the countryside to be preserved as well as resources exploited in a sustainable manner. It included food, children's toys, as well as solar and wind-powered technologies. Vicky Whitlock organised this part of the show.

She said: "While a lot of farmers wouldn't necessarily call themselves green, they do understand how the land needs to be used properly and protected."

• A man was taken to hospital from the showground after being kicked by a horse. He was kept overnight for observation but released the next day.



CLASSIC: The tractor parade



SEEN AND HERD: Awaiting the scrutiny of the judges in show ring at Detling

Pictures PHIL HOUGHTON



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YOUR LETTERS

Weighing up ways to save NHS money

The NHS would be better off sending obese patients to weight-loss schemes rather than offering them NHS help because they are more effective and cost less.

The Medical Research Council conducted a one-year survey in Northampton were half of obese patients were sent on a commercial weight loss programme and the other half received GP-led care. This involved advice about a healthy diet and scheduled weigh-ins with a nurse.

At the end of the year the group on the weight-loss scheme had lost twice as much (15lbs on average) compared to the GP-led group (6lbs).

The National Obesity Forum commented that GPs were by definition generalists but weight-loss programmes were consultants in their field and buying in services could benefit NHS patients and prove cost-effective.

The most important aspect is to change people's mental attitude to weight loss. You can't change what is on the outside without changing what is on the inside.

Losing four to five kilograms can halve a person's diabetes risk if they are overweight, so even a little can be beneficial.

We know a lot of people are overweight and need to lose weight. The challenge is how you do it.

In the NHS we do not have the resources for a massive weight management programme. But this scheme would be cost-effective

Dr Susan Jebb, Medical Research Council

Academies widen gap between classes

Kent Green Party believes that the current enthusiasm for academy schools is misplaced and will lead to more control over education by Government.

The move towards academy schools in Kent and Medway will widen the educational gap between rich and poor. There is no intention to properly resource schools in areas with the greatest needs under this scheme.

Under targeted policies, there would be far more assurance that lessons meet the needs of the children and society and assurance that children are not cherry-picked to make schools look good.

Education is a basic right and one that must be protected, governed properly and accountable, not privatised and made unaccountable.

The Government's claim that academies are raising standards is not proven. Covert and overt admissions and exclusion practices enable academies to skew their intakes in favour of those from higher-achieving backgrounds. Local authorities can 'direct' maintained schools to accept special needs children but can only 'ask' academies. There is also increasing evidence of academies excluding more children than

your blogger

Tom Betts lets fly about his distaste for seagulls as he prepares for the coming of Gullmageddon...



I USED to think seagulls were funny, and perhaps even a little bit cool in a strange sort of way.

To me the birds seemed to have a rebellious attitude that made me laugh. I admired their pluck – but that was before I moved to Thanet.

In recent years, things have gone a little too far.

I am certain this country will soon be in the grip of these beasts, a trend it will be hard to reverse.

We may be on the verge of Gullmageddon and the UK's first seagull-related death is on the way, just you mark my words.

Residents across the isle will no doubt sympathise with my views as the gulls tear their way through rubbish sacks and spread litter across the streets – a story I have reported on in the past.

The noise is also another negative.

Every morning I am woken up by an ASBO gull flock who camp out on our roof with little more in their tiny minds than causing as much racket as possible for hours on end.

Not fun when you're nursing a hangover or in desperate need of sleep.

No, their noise is not the pleasant twittering and trilling of other birds, but an assault on the eardrums that even double-glazing cannot halt.

The shrill screeching and squawking is nice when heard every so often on a day out at the seaside but not every single day.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

maintained schools.

Furthermore, academies are not covered by general education law which means that their students and parents have fewer rights than those of schools in the maintained sector. The sponsoring body of any academy has the power to appoint the majority of governors.

Academies have high staff turnover rates, and staff in academies can be prey to discriminatory employment practices. Teachers and support staff working in academies deserve the same protection as those working in the maintained sector. While Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Education is slashing the rebuilding of hundreds of schools around the country he is promising extra money for any school that becomes an academy. The divisive nature of this highlights our concerns about the tendency towards greater social segregation. We are also concerned that the government will use the October comprehensive spending review to put academies and 'free' schools at the top of the priority list.

Stuart Jeffery, Kent Green Party

Hard lesson for those involved with BSF

Headteachers at 28 Kent secondary schools, eight special schools and four referral centres were devastated to learn that plans to rebuild their schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme had been scrapped.

The vast number of hours spent by heads and governors negotiating with architects and officials are wasted.

The many hours of planning by staff to develop new methods for teaching and learning using opportunities created by purpose-designed premises will be consigned to the scrapheap.

Some of the special schools are required to admit children with complex physical and learning needs, but will now find it impossible to cater for these unless alternative funding can be found.

Also spare a thought for KCC officers who have worked tirelessly through the mass of red tape imposed on them, to try and ensure the best for our schools.

For the following schools in Thanet - Clarendon House Grammar, Chatham House Grammar, Foreland Special, Hartsdown Technology College, Hereson, Laleham Gap (Special), Northwood Centre, St Anthony's (Special), Stone Bay (Special) and Ursuline College; and in Gravesend - Gravesend Boys and Girls Grammars, Meopham, and St George's CofE, along with Portal House (Special) in Dover, the shock was so much greater.

For in these schools building plans have nearly all been finalised and construction due to begin in the near future.

They will now have to compete for students with the gleaming new premises of those schools who have benefited from BSF.

The winged ones also swoop down on all and sundry in what we're told is their way of protecting their babies, who are the fattest beasts you'll ever find.

Walking down my street has become like running the gauntlet. The flying dogs sit on top of the chimney pots, looking down on those who dare to venture out with a sneer on their beaks.

They are like our new alien overlords, only with sharper talons.

Now I think of them less as lovable rebels and more like flying hooligans, or worse the mafia of the bird world. They're got more front than Del Boy, too.

Those who have ventured to the seafront with a bag of chips in hand will testify to the fact that the birds would kick someone's head in for a solitary, discarded chip.

My boss, a birdwatcher, is not an advocate of these views, but he is being naive. There is no doubt in my mind that these birds are becoming a major pest.

I know, I know, they're only doing what comes naturally, but still that doesn't make it any less of a nuisance.

I'm not advocating doing anything to, or with, these birds, I must add.

Aside from a few jokes on Twitter, I know it is almost an unsolvable problem, but do remember this article when we find ourselves in some kind of Human v Gull doomsday scenario, which they will win.

You have been warned.

Hartsdown is not alone in Thanet in having poor buildings and now little prospect of these being eased.

Eight newer academies already operational or in the planning stage whose replacement buildings have not begun (at an average cost of some 40 per cent more than mainstream schools), are to have any plans reviewed in the summer.

It would, however, be bizarre if many of these were upheld, as new academies converting from mainstream schools join them on an equal basis in September with no prospect of new buildings.

This is a sorry end to a project that promised so much. However, it is important to realise what has been achieved.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter has taken a personal interest in attracting maximum capital expenditure to Kent, which historically had low levels of investment in school buildings.

His drive and vision means we now have new schools worth some half a billion pounds, either completed or in construction. These include all other secondary and special schools in Gravesend and Thanet through BSF (most of which are close to completion), nine academies, and six secondary schools built under separate PFI funding.

Parents in many parts of Kent will be aware of other major investments in new or replacement buildings for schools of all types.

Whatever the future holds, these remain and nearly 20 per cent of secondary schools will have been

completely or substantially rebuilt; an impressive record of investment in the future of our children.

Whether this dramatic purge was necessary in full is for others to pronounce on. I only know it must be wrong to put part of the proceeds towards the bribe to persuade mainstream schools to become academies themselves, with another portion going to start up free schools that will often be set up to suit self-interest groups who have little interest in the education of the majority.

Peter J Read,
Independent education advisor

Live with disaster of housing benefit cuts

Brutal cuts in housing benefit, announced in the Budget, will put more than 200,000 people across Britain at risk of homelessness, and almost 22,000 in the south east alone.

The National Housing Federation has warned that plans to cut housing benefit by 10 per cent for people claiming jobseeker's allowance for 12 months or more would lead to real terms cuts of up to 50 per cent in disposable income for a significant proportion of the nation's 4.7 million housing benefit claimants.

In the south east, 21,849 people would be put at risk of homelessness, with single, childless claimants hardest hit because they would not be entitled to any other income support from the state – other than their jobseeker's allowance cash. They would be forced to make up the shortfall in their housing benefit with a substantial proportion of their dole money, which is worth just £65.45 a week.

Even if tenants do manage to pay their rent, the extra expense could plunge people into poverty and severe debt. The change in rules would also mean that low income groups would effectively be priced out of prosperous areas like London and the south east – and away from jobs.

The 10 per cent cut would equate to a 53 per cent drop in disposable income for people claiming the maximum £350 a week allowance.

The federation, which represents England's housing associations, fears people will struggle to pay their rent and fall into arrears, with most of them being evicted and ending up homeless.

As they would be deemed to be 'at fault' for their eviction, they would generally be classed as intentionally homeless and would not be entitled to emergency accommodation from the local authority.

The new rules could also make vulnerable people easy prey for loan sharks as they struggle to make ends meet.

In essence the proposals mean that those who – despite their best efforts – have failed to find work after 12 months will be pushed out of prosperous areas. Not only would this increase unemployment, but it would add to the concentration of social problems in deprived, marginalised areas.

Simon Nunn, head of region for the National Housing Federation

Many roles of our motorbike police

■ BY JANE BARLOW

NOT everyone is looking forward to the long hot days of summer.

For the Kent Police motorcycle team it isn't the most comfortable time of year, dressed in thick, black, biker's leathers and crash helmets.

But comfort isn't top of their list of priorities – whereas the safety of the public is, which means they have to go out in all weathers even if they are baking hot in the summer and freezing cold in the winter.

Kent Police has a central motorcycle team who are sent to whichever part of the county they are needed most and motorcyclists are based at stations around Kent.

Police motorcycles are needed for many functions from policing traffic at major events to attending road accidents. They are able to get through traffic jams quickly to provide assistance to those in need.

They are often used to tackle speeding or inconsiderate drivers, having both marked and unmarked motorbikes which are fitted with video recording equipment which can later be used in court.

The motorcycle team sometimes provides VIP escorts to royalty and visiting heads of state and if required provide funeral escorts to servicemen and women who have died serving their country.

They can also be called on to escort high value or abnormal loads. They recently escorted lorries carrying turbine blades to a wind farm on the Romney Marsh as they travelled along the motorway. They are also called upon for the fast delivery

of forensic evidence from crime scenes.

PC Dave Greenwood, from the central motorcycle team, said: "One of our aims is to educate the public regarding driving or riding. If we see a motorist who we think needs advising about their driving we will stop them and offer them advice. This could prevent an accident in the future."

"We have an enforcement role which sees us stopping speeding drivers. We also deal with drivers who are breaking the law in other ways, perhaps driving without insurance or driving dangerously."

The team works to reduce the number of people in the county who are killed or seriously injured in road accidents. It does this by tackling speeders, those who are not wearing seat belts, careless or dangerous drivers and others who use their mobile phones while at the wheel.

The bikes they use are BMW R1200RTPs although the force also has Yamaha 450cc Enduro off-road motorbikes for which officers are given special training to ride. These are used to target off-road bikers who are breaking the law, other off-road vehicles and to search large areas of the countryside for missing people.

PC Greenwood said: "We go to areas where there have been complaints and stop people using off-road vehicles. If they are driving or riding illegally we can issue them with a warning notice, which means if they are caught again we have the power to seize their vehicle. We prosecute offenders if they do not have valid insurance and are using their vehicles on a road or in a public place. We also give safety advice."

The motorcycle team also runs a project called Bikesafe – a one-day training course giving motorcyclists advice on safer riding.



OFF ROAD: PC Dave Greenwood stops people using off-road vehicles (left) motorcyclists are stopped by police (right)



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Friday 30th	Drusillas	£26.00
Saturday 31st	London Zoo	£27.00
August		
Monday 2nd	Le Touquet	£26.00
Wednesday 4th	Boulogne by Ferry	£24.00
Thursday 5th	Biddenden Vineyards Tour & Wines,	
	Vines & Railway Lines	£34.95
Saturday 7th	De Panne	£20.00
Monday 9th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Saturday 14th	Brussels Carpet of Flowers	£32.00
Monday 16th	Thorpe Park	£29.00
Tuesday 17th	Portsmouth	£18.50
Friday 20th	Legoland	£32.50
Saturday 21st	Ostend	£25.00
Sunday 22nd	Chessington World of Adventures	£34.50
Tuesday 24th	Althorp House & Afternoon Tea	£45.00
Thursday 26th	Boulogne sur Mer	£24.00

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DAY & NIGHT

Carnival at flower show

ENJOY a blooming marvellous day out at the 124th Minster Flower Show on Saturday.

The show is at the Recreation Ground at 1pm and the carnival parade arrives at 2pm. There will be an appearance by Amanda Piper of Meridian TV news team. To find out more visit www.minster-in-thanet.org.uk.

Invitation to screenings

TWO films will be shown at Dover's Grand Shaft as part of the Cultural Olympiad Open Weekend programme.

Dover Arts Development presents screenings of *Supermen II* by Foreign Investment and *Revisit* by Kathy Kenny with Ron den Daas. The event runs from 1pm to 6pm on Saturday and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday. For details visit www.dadonline.eu.

Dance the years away

STEP back in time with a 1940s nostalgia dance at Birchington Village Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday.

The event is being held in aid of Demelza House children's hospice, Cats in Crisis and Animals Asia Foundation.

Tickets cost £7 in advance or £8 on the door. Entry is free for under-15s. To book call 01843 831865 or 07799 284291.

Murderer puts boot in

SEE if you can spot the villain when Margate Football Club hosts a murder mystery evening on Sunday.

The Perfectly Dreadful Murder Company presents *Foul Play*, a comic crime show set in the world of football. The event starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8.

To book call 01843 226963.

Free ghost tours in city

CANTERBURY'S Ghost Hunter is offering free tours to residents to thank them for their support.

John Hippisley is offering free ghost tours of the city today and next Wednesday. Free spaces are limited, so call 0845 5190257 or go online at www.canterburyghosttour.com to book. More details on the website.

Music for summer night

ENJOY light music on a summer evening when Cantate Choir performs at the Memorial Theatre in Broadstairs.

The concert takes place at 6pm on Sunday and tickets cost £8. Non-members of the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club must book at least 24 hours in advance, by calling 0845 262 6263 or emailing info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Behind scenes in TV

ASPIRING and professional actors are invited to take part in a one-day television workshop on Monday.

With two BAFTA nominations under his belt, director Tim Leandro will teach actors how to work with the camera, crew and fellow actors. The workshop at Canterbury College costs £54. To book email timleandro@btinternet.com or call 07812 475552.



Go mad for top musical acts

SOUND ISLAND FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 24, and Sunday, July 25, Quex Park, Birchington



TEN years on from the first event, the Sound Island Festival has gone from strength to strength.

Last year, global superstars the Pussycat Dolls graced the stage at Quex Park and for the 2010 event, organisers have attracted top chart names of today along with legends in their field.

So whether you are looking for the future of pop or want to revel in the sound of veteran stars performing live on stage, the festival offers two fantastic line-ups to please most tastes.

On Saturday, Madness will bring their unique brand of chaos to Quex Park, getting the crowd on their feet with some of the group's best-loved hits. The popular ska-pop band has been entertaining fans for more than 30 years, belting out unforgettable songs such as *Our House*, *Baggy Trousers*, *It Must Be Love*, *One Step Beyond*, *Embarassment* and many more.

Madness, pictured above, have their origins in a 'ramshackle' band formed in 1976, which went on to perform as The Invaders and changed its name to Madness in 1979. After a string of hits, the band split in 1986.

The re-release of *It Must Be Love* in 1991 led to a series of reunion concerts and the band's repertoire has even inspired a hit musical, *Our House*.

They will be supported by Lightning Seeds, whose hits over the years have included *Lucky*



You, *The Life of Riley*, *Marvellous* and the number one World Cup song, *Three Lions*, recorded with comedians Frank Skinner and David Baddiel.

Front man Ian Broudie has been at the heart of the music industry for decades and

not only as the creative force behind *Lightning Seeds*. He played a key role in the Liverpool punk scene in the 70s and was renowned for his creativity with alternative rock production in the 80s, before becoming a pop star in the 90s. Broudie also worked in the studio with *Echo* and the *Bunnymen* and, more recently, a new generation of indie stars in *The Coral* and *Zutons*.

Also on the bill are *The Blockheads*, who became one of the foremost bands of the New Wave era with late front man, Ian Dury, and underground punk heroes, *King Blues*.

On Sunday, X-Factor finalists JLS will headline a day of pop and R&B when some of today's best chart acts take to the stage. The talent show runners-up have stormed the charts and achieved two number one singles in the two years since they made their first appearance.

Diana Vickers, left, is also an X-Factor discovery and she made an immediate impression on both the judges and the audience, blowing them away with her unique voice. Her debut album reached the number one spot and she also topped the singles chart with *Once*.

Vickers' career has extended to musical theatre with her award-winning turn in *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*.

English rapper Chipmunk has also had a number one hit with *Oopsy Daisy* and his album *I Am Chipmunk* reached number two in the UK charts. Alex Gardner, *Rough Diamondz* and *The Score* complete the line-up for Sunday's concert.

Advance tickets cost £33.50 for the Saturday concert and £28.59 for Sunday. To book call the box office on 0871 220 0260 or 01843 292795 or go online at www.gigantic.com.





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general public. This system is widely used by the England cricket, rugby and other international sports teams.

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TIME TRAVELLERS GO... ARCHAEOLOGY

Saturday, July 24, and Sunday, July 25, Dover Castle

BECOME king of the castle by taking part in Dover Castle's archaeological time travel event this weekend.

Visitors to the castle can learn more about the science of discovering the past and enjoy some exciting hands-on activities. With mummies, lost treasure and lots, the weekend will be packed with educational fun.

Children must tackle mummies and Raiders of the Lost Ark-style obstacles as they look for the treasure in the Rescue the Relic assault course, which is available from 10am to 5pm each day. Anyone with an

appetite for destruction can help to build a giant model castle, then create their own ruin by firing a siege weapon.

Experience life as an archaeologist by taking part in a mini dig, learn how to record and draw the discoveries like a professional. There is also the chance to see replica artefacts copied from finds from the Mary Rose.

Other attractions include an archaeology quest, historical games from ancient Egypt and Rome and authentic Roman crafts. To find out more visit www.english-heritage.org.uk or call 0870 333 1181.



WHITSTABLE OYSTER FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 24, to Friday, July 30, Various venues, Whitstable

SEASIDE heritage is at the heart of the celebrations at Whitstable Oyster Festival.

The annual event offers a busy programme of arts, family entertainment, heritage events and gastronomic delights.

The fun starts with the Landing of the Oysters on Saturday, followed by the colourful Oyster Parade and more entertainment.

Action men and women will show off their strength with the Mud Tug on Sunday and there are lots of activities to keep children entertained. From stand-up comedy to classical music,

people of all ages and tastes will find something to enjoy.

The heritage of Whitstable is celebrated at the festival and on Thursday afternoon, children will help to create hundreds of 'grotters', hollow mounds of sand or mud decorated with oyster shells. After the Blessing of the Waters ceremony, the grotters will be lit by candles.

Foodies will be in heaven with the EPICentre Food Fair at Whitstable Harbour this Saturday and Sunday.

For full festival listings visit www.whitstableoysterfestival.co.uk.

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, July 25, Redwalls, Canterbury



FORMER X-Factor finalist Ben Mills will entertain the crowds at a fundraising event this weekend.

The singer-songwriter is a patron of Kent Kids Miles of Smiles and he will be taking part in a fundraising event at Redwalls in Stodmarsh Road. Visitors can enjoy a full day of live music from 10 acts, while helping to raise money for a worthy cause at Music in the Garden.

Kent Kids Miles of Smiles helps to care for severely handicapped children and Music in the Garden will be a chance to raise valuable funds for the charity's work.

Gates open at 10.30am and Ben Mills will be appearing at 1pm. Also on the bill are Autumn Few, Luke Jackson, Radio Riot, A Thousand Lights, The Flack, 10p Short, Counterfeit Notes, Equilibrium and Broken.

Anyone who works up an appetite can take advantage of the licensed bar and a barbecue, and there will also be stalls to browse. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children aged under 12.

To book, call 01227 780796 or visit www.miles-of-smiles.org.uk or www.gigantic.com.



ELEMENTAL FIELDS

Saturday, July 24, to Saturday, July 31, Tufon House, Ashford

THE secret life of Ashford's flood plain and woodland is exposed in a new installation by artist Lee Patterson.

Presented by Stour Valley Arts, Elemental Fields features recordings taken across the two sites of Ashford floodplain and Kings Wood. The location-specific sound installation becomes an acoustic instrument to shed light on this hidden world of sound, created using solid, aerial and liquid vibrations.

Patterson has used contact microphones and hydrophones to reveal how shifts in the environment can have an impact on the sonic experience.

With his unconventional approach, Patterson enjoys a growing international reputation as a sound artist and improviser.

As part of Stour Valley Arts' education programme, children from two local schools have been working on sound mapping with artist Louise Martin. The result, Vibration Station, can be seen as part of the installation.

Elemental Fields will be launched from noon to 4pm on Saturday and will then be open from 12am to 4pm on Sunday and noon to 5pm for the rest of the exhibition.

Find out more online at www.stourvalleyarts.org.uk.



GODDESS FESTIVAL

Friday, July 23, to Sunday, July 25, Westgate Hall, Canterbury

ENTER the mystical world of giants, fairies and mythology when the Goddess Festival descends on Canterbury.

Start the weekend in style by attending the magical Summer Fairy Ball on Friday night, with live music from acclaimed musicians Nigel Shaw and Carolyn Hillyer. There will be more entertainment from Goth rock band Serpentyne, which features Maggie Sand of Alquimia, and revellers can step back in time at a medieval dance workshop. The ball starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15.

The streets of Canterbury will be alive with colour, music and dance on Saturday when the Goddess Parade sets out from Westgate Hall at 10am, entertaining shoppers in the High Street with a variety of entertainment. Stilt walkers, magical performers, drummers, dancers and giants will all be making an appearance.

More than 65 exhibitors will take part in the market on both days and there will also be workshops and entertainment celebrating pagan art, music and beliefs.

Admission costs £6/£3 and all activities are free. To find out more visit www.goddessfestivals.co.uk



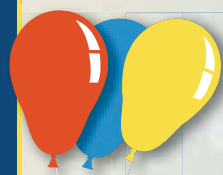


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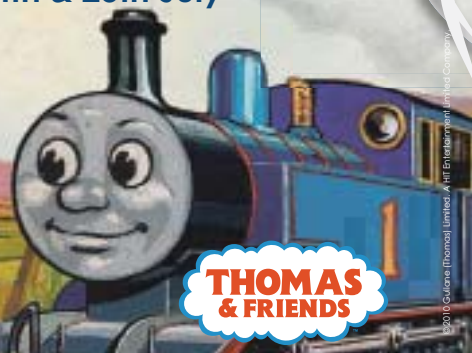
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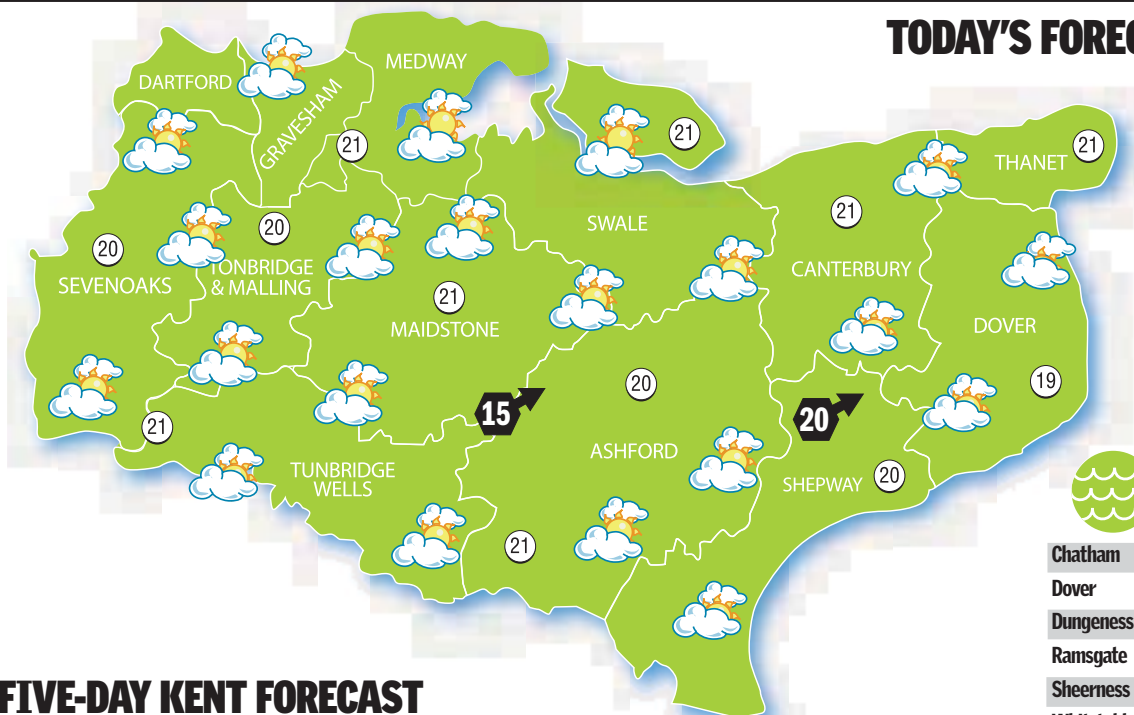
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Athens	32°C	New York	33°C
Barcelona	28°C	Paris	27°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	31°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	15°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	31°C
Cardiff	22°C	Tokyo	33°C
Gibraltar	25°C	Vancouver	20°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	22°C
Las Palmas	32°C	Wellington	12°C

KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:36pm 5.5m	Sunday	1:21pm 5.6m
Dover	Saturday	10:54am 6.0m	Sunday	11:36am 6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:42am 6.6m	Sunday	11:29am 6.9m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:24am 4.6m	Sunday	12:06pm 4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:25pm 5.3m	Sunday	1:11pm 5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:32pm 4.9m	Sunday	1:16pm 5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon													Whitstable					Saturday	12:32pm 4.9m					Sunday	11:06pm 5.0m	
Ashford	25°C	20°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Dover	25°C	19°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	Gravesend	26°C	23°C	23°C	21°C	22°C	Sevenoaks	24°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C		SUNRISE	5.02am	SUNSET	9.00pm			
Canterbury	26°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Faversham	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Maidstone	26°C	22°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Sittingbourne	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C								
Chatham	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Folkestone	25°C	19°C	21°C	19°C	19°C	Ramsgate	26°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C	Tonbridge	25°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C		MOONRISE	5.50pm	MOONSET	12.33am			
Dartford	26°C	23°C	23°C	21°C	22°C	Gillingham	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Rochester	24°C	22°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	Tun Wells	25°C	21°C	22°C	20°C	21°C								



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MOONRISE 5:50pm MOONSET 12:33am



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CELEBRATING its new store in Bluewater Shopping Centre, Magnolia Silver Jewellery is offering two lucky readers the chance to WIN £150 worth of its amazing jewellery!

Magnolia Silver Jewellery, the world's largest designer silver jewellery retailer, has just launched a brand new outlet in Bluewater Shopping Centre.

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cately handcrafted by Magnolia's 25 exclusive designers using 925 Sterling Silver, gold elements and a selection of beautiful semi-precious stones.

With over 500 stylish new pieces hitting stores each month and 3,000 unique pieces available in all stores at any given time, Magnolia Silver Jewellery is at the cutting edge of design and prides itself as the only jewellery retailer to offer one year's full warranty for free on every piece sold.

To celebrate the new outlet in Bluewater Shopping Centre, Magnolia Silver Jewellery is giving two lucky winners the chance to spend £150 each to spend at the new outlet!

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address

(if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Magnolia Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is July 30, 2010.

Question: How many exclusive designers are there for Magnolia?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

For further information on Magnolia Silver Jewellery please visit www.magnolia-silver.co.uk. Terms & Conditions: Two winners will receive £150 worth of vouchers to spend at the Magnolia Silver Jewellery outlet in Bluewater Shopping Centre. Vouchers cannot be redeemed at any other outlet in the UK or rest of the World. No cash alternative. Prize must be redeemed by August 31, 2010 otherwise the vouchers will become invalid. Winners will be contacted directly by Magnolia Jewellery.



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Go wild in the country as you forage for food on hotel break

■ BY TOM BETTS

OWNERS of a Kent hotel are urging guests to embrace their wild side.

Staff at the acclaimed Walleth's Court Hotel, in St Margarets-at-Cliffe, near Dover, have launched a new Hunter and Forager experience for those who want to delve deeper into the countryside.

The trips will enable guests the chance to get an authentic taste of just what is on offer in the surrounding area.

Run by experts Gavin Oakley and Peter Kelly, two men with a background in rural pursuits, the experience combines two aspects of rural life with an interesting day out.

Typically, guests stay in one of the two well-equipped outdoor teepees and are woken by the guides early for a day to remember.

At dawn the pair lead small parties into the countryside near Dover to track down and hunt game such as rabbits and pigeons.

Peter, who has represented his country at shooting, said: "It's a very interesting experience for guests. We teach them how to use the guns before actually hunting for food."

Once a few specimens have been bagged with a 12-bore shotgun, they are taken back to the hotel, where you can learn how to cook and prepare the food.

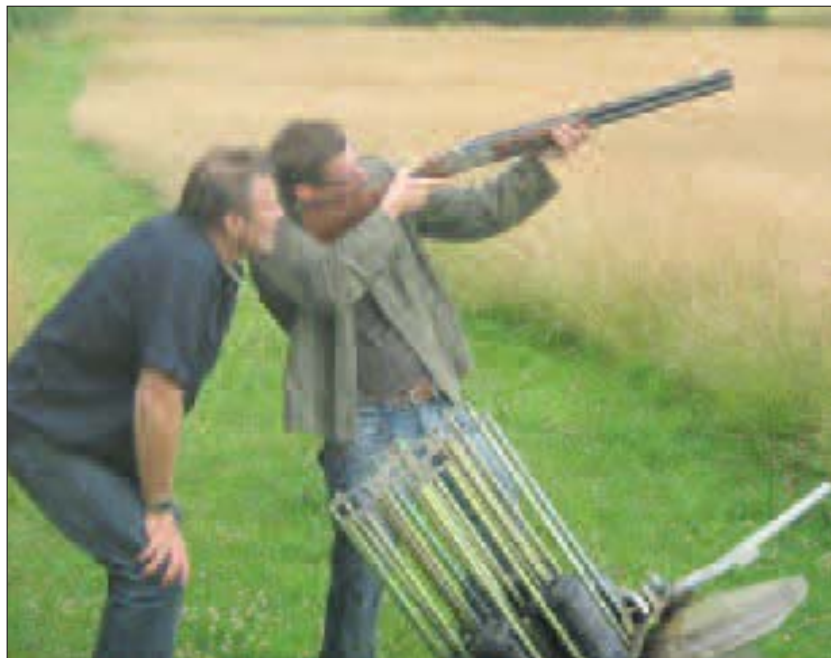
The head chef at Walleth's Court, Ryan Tasker, leads the demonstrations, which include plucking birds and skinning rabbits, before cooking up dishes such as ballotine of rabbit with summer white-truffle emulsion.

After lunch and drinks, Gavin takes over and leads out parties to forage for food.

The range of what is available soon becomes clear as the walk winds its way from the hotel, heading into the South Foreland valley across the stunning coastline, before finishing down in St Margaret's Bay, where more foraging takes place in the rock-pools.

Guests will gather fare such as wild fennel, crab apples, wild cabbage, horseradish, sea lettuce, sea beet and sea purslane along the way.

Gavin said: "The food that is available free, growing naturally, is often overlooked. It's surprising what you can find to eat right under your noses. The countryside around St Margaret's is full of delicious produce."



"For me it's really enjoyable to show people just what is here. Growing up in the area, I have learned just what can be foraged and eaten."

As with the hunting part of the day, the food that has been collected is then taken back to Walleth's Court for a foragers' supper, with dishes such as sea bream with an olive and caper sauce and crushed new potatoes with spinach and wild fennel foam with sea lettuce.

Gavin said: "Seeing some of the ingredients that you have brought back land on the table in front of you is very satisfying. It really brings home just how much we can gather from the land around us."

"We hope these trips will take off. Everyone is welcome to book. We have led some successful test excursions to see if people enjoyed it and the results have been really positive."

For more information about the Hunter and Forager break, phone the hotel on 01304 852424 or check out the website at www.wallethscourthotel.com.

FOOD FOR FREE: Clockwise from above, Tom Betts lines up a shot, guided by Peter Kelly; head chef Ryan prepares a freshly shot and skinned rabbit; the resultant ballotine of rabbit; and leaders Gavin Oakley and Peter Kelly



WANNABE CHEFS: Former World Cup footballers Carlton Palmer, Neil Ruddock, Frank Worthington and John Fashanu got highly competitive in the kitchen



YOUR TV REVIEW

COME DINE WITH ME: Channel 4, from 12.50pm weekdays
HOLBY CITY: BBC1, 8pm Tuesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

A COUPLE of years ago, when *Come Dine With Me* first appeared on our screens, I slated it.

Writing in this column, I labelled the whole thing "idiotic", but I may have been too quick to judge.

In fact, I was plain wrong because I now believe it to be a work of art.

It has spawned many imitators, as most successful TV shows do, and the inevitable celebrity version arrived quicker than you could say 'John Fashanu has just goosed Carlton Palmer'.

It is the standard episodes, though, featuring the fearless and foolhardy Great British Public, that usually work the best.

Never underestimate just how cringeworthy a 40-something estate agent wanting to impress with his pan-fried turbot and wild rocket salad can be.

Narrator Dave Lamb guides the viewer through the episode, dispensing disparaging remarks along the way, and is usually good for a few laughs.

It's an easy enough job, as the amateur cooks competing for what seems like a pretty measly £1,000 prize do more than enough to make utter plebs of themselves.

If you haven't tuned in before, then do so just once, if only to remind yourself never to hold a dinner party.

LIVING in Holby is a dangerous business. You're dicing with death every time you wake up in the fictional town.

It doesn't matter who you are – expect the grim reaper or serious

injury to come knocking sooner rather than later.

Better to stay in bed, although you're likely to become entangled in your duvet and suffocate to death.

Mind you, it might be preferable to be stabbed in the jugular falling on to a block of kitchen knives or to meet your maker by drowning face down in a bowl of cookie dough than suffer the ignominy of being admitted to Holby City General.

The staff are a horrible bunch.

Engaged in extra-marital affairs, back-stabbing and general moaning and nastiness, they make the *EastEnders* cast look like a clean-cut bunch of high moral standing.

If the NHS really is like this, then we must crack on with privatisation.

Naturally, my mother, who loves all things medical, tragic and repetitive, is addicted to it.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Gap between wages and house prices stays

THERE will continue to be a gap between rising house prices and the average wage, according to a recent study.

According to James Davis, chief executive officer of Upad.co.uk, it is getting more and more unaffordable to get on to the property ladder, as potential home buyers need large deposits.

In addition, many of the young first-time buyers out there have already graduated from university with debt of around £20,000, reducing their income further still.

"If you put all those bits together, renting is an increasingly preferred form of tenure rather than going into the housing market," Mr Davis explained.

All of this means that there is now less of a taboo surrounding renting than there has been which, combined with a lack of adequate rental stock, means good news for buy-to-let investors, he concluded.

Almost two-thirds of people living in privately rented accommodation believe they are unlikely to buy their own home in the next five years, according to mortgage lender Kensington.

More choice as supply overtakes demand

HOUSE prices rose by three per cent in the first quarter of 2010, according to the latest figures.

Mortgage lender Halifax claims that the average cost of a UK home now stands at £170,111.

However, this represents a "period of broad stability" for the month of June, which saw a seasonally-adjusted rise of 0.1 per cent in the house prices, the financial group claims.

Reacting to the news, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said that the figures back up existing evidence that supply is beginning to outstrip demand in the UK property market.

Chief economist Simon Rubinsohn explained: "It is no bad thing the price picture appears to be stabilising.

"The more important issue for the market is whether this is accompanied by a pick-up in transaction activity."

All this means that, at the moment, consumers have more choice when buying a property, which Mr Rubinsohn believes is good news for the market.



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DISASTROUS:

First-time buyers could be priced out of the property market if a cap on loan to value lending means they have to find deposits of 25 per cent for their first property

Lending cap sparks fear for those starting out

■ BY NICK AMES

SPECULATION that the Bank of England could introduce mortgage caps restricting how much people could borrow has put the spotlight on the plight of first-time buyers.

Some commentators pointed to new figures showing how few mortgages are available to those with a small deposit as evidence of lenders being more sensible.

There are fewer than 20 mortgage deals allowing people to borrow 95 per cent of their property's value (LTV), compared with some 1,000 three years ago.

George Osborne, the chancellor, has said the Bank is to be handed sweeping powers to curb City excesses and prevent another financial crisis.

It was widely reported this would include the power to restrict lending, potentially allowing the Bank to block consumers from borrowing too much.

This could, it was suggested, include restrictions on LTV ratios, so that people might be prevented from taking out a home loan for more than, say, 75 per cent of the property's value.

But any move to introduce a cap on lending in the mortgage market would be disastrous for the millions of borrowers who don't have a 25 per cent deposit, according to Hannah-Mercedes Skenfield at Moneysupermarket.com.

Based on mortgage searches made via the

website, up to 40 per cent of people looking for a home loan have a deposit of less than 25 per cent.

Meanwhile, it is estimated that about 2.5m outstanding mortgages – approximately a quarter of the total – are for more than 75 per cent of the property's value.

"Our concern is that a blanket LTV restriction will freeze the housing market for years," said Ms Skenfield. "Although LTV is a factor when making lending decisions, it is more important to factor in affordability and judge each application on its own merits."

"For many young people looking to get a foot on the first rung of the housing ladder, a deposit of perhaps £25,000 is unthinkable, especially for those saddled with student debt, yet in many cases their mortgage repayments would be similar to the rent they are paying."

Quick response to planning application praised

EVERYONE knows that you need planning permission from the local council before you can build a new property, but sometimes this can be a very long and frustrating process.

But Hillreed Homes says it was delighted when a proposed development at Loose, near Maidstone, went through within eight weeks.

"It was an exceptional turnaround and Maidstone planning office should be praised

for making such a good job of the application", said Colin Creed, managing director.

"In the South East, there is always a very strong need for homes and often developers cannot build them quickly enough to satisfy demand.

"Currently, we have several proposed sites waiting for planning permission throughout the South East", said Mr Creed.

"Many of the homes we are currently building and marketing are under offer or bought off plan and because of this pent up requirement, we are keen to have more developments in progress at any one time, but without full planning we cannot proceed.

"It is frustrating at the moment as we are well into summer and are almost running out of houses ready for immediate occupation."

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Advertiser's Announcement

ROUTE 85 DOWN RAMSGATE WAY

Explore Living is launching a new-home purchasing plan to give a helping hand to first-home buyers at its award winning development New Meridian Village at the Kent coastal resort of Ramsgate. The Route 85 shared equity scheme provides a great opportunity to purchase your first home in a sought-after residence near the seaside and get a much needed leg-up onto the housing ladder.

The Route 85 purchasing plan is open to first-time buyers, and enables them to own their home outright. The scheme allows purchasers to own 100 per cent of their new home and get 15 per cent free for ten years. The 15 per cent share is funded by Explore Living on an interest-free basis to the buyer. All new home buyers need a minimum deposit of five per cent of the property's value that they are interested in and an additional £1000 to reserve their home, however some terms and conditions do apply and Route 85 is subject to availability. Explore Living can even put buyers in touch with a mortgage broker who can help arrange a mortgage for the remaining 80 per cent of the value of the property.

The Route 85 scheme is available on all one and two-bedroom apartments as well as three bedroom houses at New Meridian Village. In 2009 the development won a national award for Best Starter Home at the prestigious What House? Awards.

John Inglis, Explore Living's Sales and Marketing Director, says that as spring merges into summer the time is now right to make the most of the seaside and make Ramsgate a permanent home. "The obstacles preventing first-time home buyers have been removed by our Route 85 scheme. Our customers also get the peace of mind from knowing that while this is a shared equity scheme they do own their property outright. Thanks to the Stamp Duty threshold being raised it means first time buyers at New Meridian Village can further benefit by not paying Stamp Duty."

New home buyers looking to purchase a home in Kent are urged to come and see the show homes at New Meridian Village which is conveniently located near the coast and only a short distance from Ramsgate station which is on the high-speed rail link allowing commuters to get into London in approximately 80 minutes.

New Meridian Village has been designed with the Victorian style of Ramsgate in mind

while incorporating contemporary design and finishings. The range of one and two-bedroom apartments and three and four-bedroom houses are set out in Regency terraces and Victorian promenades.

Each property offers intelligent and innovative features including under-floor heating to the apartments, optional integrated-sound system with iPod docking station, pre-wiring for Sky+ and flat screen TVs and solid concrete floors and staircases to help eliminate squeaking floorboards.

With a large amount of landscaped green spaces rich with trees, the development has been specially designed to provide a safer, greener and altogether better environment for children and adults alike and encourages a strong sense of community between home owners. Residents of New Meridian Village will also benefit from cleverly designed 'Home Zones' where roads are laid out in such a way that discourages speeding and excessive traffic.

New Meridian Village is located on Manston Road a few minutes from Ramsgate's town centre and high street while the seafront, sports centre, and impressive marina are just a short distance away.

With Route 85, prices at New Meridian Village start from £89,246 for a one-bedroom apartment and £169,996 for a three-bedroom house. For more information, please call the Sales & Marketing Suite on 0845 872 1004 which is open Thursday to Monday between 10.00am and 5.30pm, email newmeridianvillage@exploreliving.co.uk or visit www.exploreliving.co.uk.



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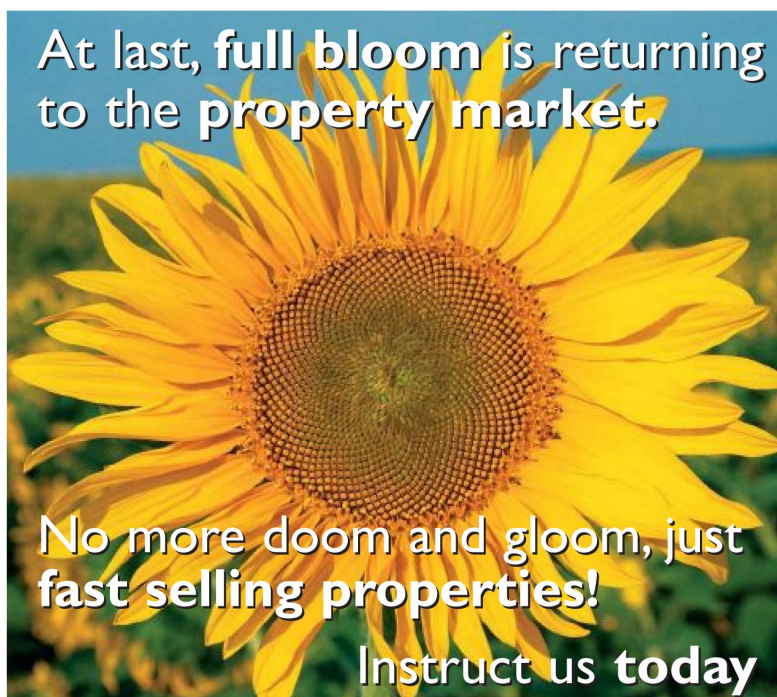


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To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email alan.barham@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk

CLOSING DATE: 6-8-10

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KCA is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Community Drug Worker Substance Misusing Parents Project

£26,276 - £29,236 + essential car user allowance of up to £1,239 per annum • 37 hours per week • Based Swale

You will be part of a project providing specialist treatment to parents with drug or alcohol problems, who have been referred to Swale Children's Social Services, and whose substance use is impacting on the care of their children.

You will work closely with social workers to implement a joint package of care to families. This includes making home visits, attending case conferences and core group meetings.

With excellent assessment and intervention skills, you will help service users make significant changes to their substance use. Experience of working in partnership with other agencies is desirable. A background and qualification in substance misuse, nursing, counselling, social work or another relevant profession is essential.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton at shamilton@kca.org.uk or on 01843 298355 ext 217. Ref: 681.

Closing date: 26 July 2010 at 5.00pm.

Interview date: 6 August 2010.

Family Support Workers

2 posts • Fixed term until 31 March 2011

£22,958 - £29,236

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KCA Horizon drug treatment programmes offer intensive key working, group work and assistance and support in accessing opportunities in education, employment and voluntary work, to those wishing to address their substance misuse and make positive changes to their lifestyle.

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You will need a professional qualification in a relevant discipline and a high level of experience working with families and the drug and alcohol field. Please quote reference number 682 (Gravesham post) and 683 (Swale post).

Closing date: 26 July 2010.

Interview date for both posts: 5 August 2010.

Finance Office Assistant

£15,039 - £16,830 pro rata per annum

30 hours per week • Based Faversham

As part of our busy finance team, you will undertake the daily administration duties and assist in the operation and maintenance of the purchase ledger, sales ledger and payroll. You will also provide back-up support for team members as required. Training will be provided.

You will need to have good keyboard skills, be numerate and fully computer literate. Previous experience of working in a finance office and knowledge of Microsoft Office and Dynamics Great Plains is desirable but not essential. You will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills.

For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, on 01795 590795, Ref: 684.

Closing date: 23 July 2010.

Interview date: 11 August 2010.

Application forms and job descriptions for all roles can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk. You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 selecting option three. Please quote the relevant reference number.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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Lecturer in Child Care and Health Care

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 per annum (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care and Health and Social Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 30 July 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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If you are interested in finding out more about CPL then please send CV with covering letter to phil.bowling@cplaromas.com or complete the application form online at the above web address.

**THE FIFTH TRUST
Support Worker**

The Fifth Trust are looking for an experienced Individual to work within our Day Services for Adults with Learning Difficulties. This is in a support/care role which will involve Personal Care.

You must have a proven experience of working within the care setting and be able to Drive our Minibus, if not be prepared to take the necessary test. Car driver essential and a flexible approach as you will be required to work over 2 sites.

**THE FIFTH TRUST
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For both Jobs please send your CV and a covering letter to: **The Fifth Trust**
C/O Mrs Nikki Marley
Elham Valley Vineyard, Elham Valley Road
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The Westlands School

Site Maintenance Technician/Caretaker

Required for September 2010
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The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties the successful applicant will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a good working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is essential. An awareness of swimming pool maintenance would be an advantage.

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.
Closing date, Monday 9th August 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and learners to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

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This post is offered on a temporary contract for up to twelve months.

The Sheerness Gateway is an exciting new partnership venture being delivered by Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council together with other public and community sector partners. It will see the delivery of a single access point for a variety of public services in the heart of Sheerness town centre.

We are looking for a Project Officer with experience, drive, initiative and outstanding communications skills to join us and lead the project. You will have a talent for working with a wide range of partners in the private, public and community sectors, you will have a key role in making the Sheerness Gateway a reality and you will have a proven track record in delivering major, multi-partner projects.

You will coordinate the development of the facility and services, working with partners and local community groups to develop the Sheerness Gateway proposals and the implementation of the facility. You should have experience of working with community and representative organisations, businesses and statutory bodies, and should possess excellent project management skills, together with a relevant Degree or equivalent qualification.

For an informal discussion, please contact Dave Thomas, Head of Commissioning and Customer Contact, on 01795 417263 (davethomas@swale.gov.uk)

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension scheme and flexi time working for most posts.

For further information and an application form contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference 208ED4.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: <http://jobs.swale.gov.uk>

Closing date: 2 August 2010
Interviews: w/c 9 August 2010

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Venue Maintenance Team Leader, Brands Hatch

First class presentation of our venue is very important to us. The role requires a well organised individual capable coordinating a wide variety of tasks including the preparation of the race circuit to the stipulated standards, grounds and buildings maintenance across the site and circuit improvement, repair and construction projects.

Leading and working with a team of around 10 people you will need to be an excellent people-manager, communicator and motivator. Experience in the civil engineering or construction industry would be useful and familiarity with CDM and Health & Safety regulations is essential. Applicants should have a good knowledge of plant and machinery, be accustomed to outdoor work and some experience in agricultural or horticultural areas would be advantageous.

Critical qualities are strong organisational skills, the ability to cope under pressure and meet tight deadlines. A winning mentality and meticulous attention to detail are essential and as part of the events industry, being prepared to work at weekends and on bank holidays during the season is a must.

**Applicants should apply in writing,
including a CV and salary expectations, to:**

Katie Dickens, Human Resources,
MotorSport Vision Limited, Brands Hatch Circuit,
Fawkham, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8NG, or
E-mail: katie.dickens@motorsportvision.co.uk



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CRICKET

BY TOM HOWARD

Kent League Division Two

Tenterden 1st XI v HSBC 1st XI

TENTERDEN kept their Division Two title hopes alive with a hardfought 17-run win against HSBC, thanks to an inspired bowling performance from the home side.

Daniel McDonald's side went into the fixture sitting 20 points behind leaders Broadstairs and hoping to notch up a sixth consecutive win.

The hosts batted first and started brightly with an opening partnership of 46 from Tim Curteis and Andrew Crawford. Once their pair were caught by Jack Potter, hopes of posting a big score faded.

Recovered

Tenterden lost McDonald (2), Ben Daking (0), Timir Chanda (9) and Nick Daynes (3) all cheaply, leaving the home side struggling on 84 for 6. Simon Berry (34) and Scott Freeman (26) recovered the innings, but Tenterden were bowled out for 162 to leave the game finely balanced.

HSBC knew there was a chance to record a surprise victory, but they made a desperately slow start to their reply. The visitors lost four quick wickets with Chanda leading the way with three and Mark Baker grabbed the other.

Stuart Bate (28) and Alan Slater (32) led the recovery but they were unable to deal with Baker and Ryan Knight, whose six wickets between them helped to bowl HSBC out for 145. Knight was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 4 for 29.

After Saturday's win, Tenterden are now just five points adrift of league leaders Broadstairs.

Battling bowlers keep Tenterden in title race



INSPIRED: All-rounder Timir Chanda took three wickets in an impressive display in Tenterden's narrow win at the weekend

SCORE CARD

Tenterden 1st XI

	Runs
Tim Curteis ct Potter b Bate	38
Andrew Crawford ct Potter b Hardinges	15
Daniel McDonald ct Potter b Coleman	2
Ben Daking b Bate	0
Timir Chanda ct Harris b Colbourn	9
Nick Daynes ct Potter b Coleman	3
Simon Berry lbw b Coleman	34
Scott Freeman c&b Coleman	26
James Rand lbw b Slater	1
Ryan Knight ct Coleman b Slater	0
Mark Baker not out	0

Extras (4b 10lb 13w 7nb) 34
Total (all out, 42.2 overs) 162

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Lee Hardinges	6	0	32	1
Alan Slater	10	1	27	2
Stuart Bate	6	1	23	2
Adam Coleman	11	0	30	4
Richard Colbourn	7	0	27	1
Nicholas Wheddon	2	0	9	0

HSBC 1st XI

	Runs
Richard Colbourn ct Curteis b Baker	12
Adam Coleman ct McDonald b Chanda	0
Jack Harris ct Daynes b Chanda	2
Richard Slater b Chanda	11
Stuart Bate ct Chanda b Knight	28
Alan Slater lbw b Knight	32
Jack Potter ct Daking b Baker	4
Tom Hutton b Knight	29
Harry Freeman c&b Knight	0
Lee Hardinges ct Knight b Baker	13
Nicholas Wheddon not out	0

Extras (8lb 3w 3nb) 14
Total (all out, 53.5 overs) 145

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
James Rand	8	2	31	0
Timir Chanda	16	6	37	3
Scott Freeman	1	0	9	0
Mark Baker	15.5	7	26	3
Ryan Knight	12	1	29	4
Tim Curteis	1	0	5	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Sandwich Town 1st XI v Ashford Town 1st XI

A DISASTROUS batting collapse saw Ashford Town on the end of a heavy nine-wicket defeat at Sandwich Town.

The visitors were unable to recover from a poor start with the bat and were bowled out for just 52 inside 24 overs. Craig Buckham top-scored with only 12 as Sandwich's bowlers ran riot. Craig Spanton finished with figures of 5 for 31.

With such a low total to surpass, Sandwich eased to victory with the help of Craig Snell's unbeaten 33.

Ashford Town 1st XI

		Runs
Simon Taylor	.lbw b Spanton	1
Liam Tegg	.c&b Chapman	2
Luke Reeves	.b Spanton	2
Gary Sutton	.lbw b Chapman	11
Sam Kennett	.ct Gavin Lawrence b Spanton	8
Jason Boulter	.ct Craig Snell b Chapman	1
Craig Buckham	.b Spanton	12
Alex Boatfield	.b van Poppel	9
Ben Ealham	.not out	1
Shane Beech	.b Spanton	0
Robert Dagger	.lbw b van Poppel	0

Extras (3lb 2w) 5
Total (all out, 23.2 overs) 52

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	12	4	31	5
Tom Chapman	7	1	16	3
Matthew van Poppel	4.2	2	2	2

Sandwich Town 1st XI

		Runs
Craig Snell	not out	33
David Scoggins	ct Ealham b Taylor	8
Stuart Smith	not out	5
Vishaul Singh	did not bat	
Robert Goatham	did not bat	
Tom Chapman	did not bat	
Oliver Robinson	did not bat	
Gavin Lawrence	did not bat	
Craig Spanton	did not bat	
Matthew van Poppel	did not bat	
Alan Amos	did not bat	

Extras (2b 4lb1w) 7
Total (1 wickets, 16.4 overs) 53

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Simon Taylor	7	1	30	1
Ben Ealham	8	3	12	0
Craig Buckham	1.4	0	5	0

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Littlebourne 1st XI v Wye 1st XI

AN IMPRESSIVE performance with both bat and ball earned Wye a nine-wicket win to lift their Regional League Championship East title hopes.

Littlebourne looked to be on course to post a threatening score after Jonathan Holton's 35 and Ben Davies' 78, but their progress was halted by a lower order batting collapse.

William Elgar mopped up the tail by taking four quick wickets, leaving Wye needing 171 for victory. The visitors responded to the challenge with Stuart Wise (67), Giles Starley (41), David Fletcher (35) in good form as they won with nine overs to spare.

Littlebourne 1st XI

		Runs
Jonathon Holton	st Eve b Secrett	35
Ian Hitchings	ct Woodbridge b Elgar	1
Ben Davies	ct Eve b Reed-Ashton	78
Jason Robson	lbw b Secrett	0
Owen Holton	st Eve b Secrett	2
Charlie Davey	ct Reed-Ashton b Wise	6
Tony Beer	ct Eve b Elgar	18
Jack Bristow	ct Wise b Elgar	4
Richard Keir	ct Barlow b Elgar	8
Jack Parr	b Elgar	1
Shaun Loomer	not out	1

Extras (3b 8lb 3w 2nb) 16
Total (all out, 40.3 overs) 170

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Stuart Wise	12	3	36	1
William Elgar	7.3	2	30	5
Alex Woodbridge	9	1	32	0
Keith Secrett	7	0	33	3
Jordan Reed-Ashton	5	0	28	1

Wye 1st XI

		Runs
Giles Starley	retired not out	41
Stuart Wise	ct Davies b Parr	67
David Fletcher	not out	32
Nick Eve	not out	19
Raj Mahadevaiah	did not bat	
William Elgar	did not bat	
Jordan Reed-Ashton	did not bat	
Ben Houston	did not bat	
Alex Woodbridge	did not bat	
Keith Secrett	did not bat	
Matt Barlow	did not bat	

Extras (5b 3lb 2w 2nb) 12
Total (1 wickets, 37 overs) 171

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Richard Keir	11	4	40	0
Ben Davies	7	0	38	0
Tony Beer	4	0	15	0
Jack Parr	10	1	42	1
Shaun Loomer	5	1	28	0

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE 1B CENTRAL

Willesborough 1st XI v High Halstow 3rd XI

STUART Wilmer's knock of 83 and a half-century from John Webster helped Willesborough complete a convincing eight-wicket win at the weekend.

High Halstow batted first and scored a slow 169 for 8 from their 46 overs, largely helped by Jim Quirke (39) and Ronnie Singh (41).

However, the visitor's bowlers found wickets hard to come by and Willesborough quickly raced towards the winning post. The home side, led by Wilmer and Quirke, chased down the target with more than ten overs to spare.

High Halstow 3rd XI

		Runs
Andy Simpson	run out	17
John Hatchett	b Webster	24
Michael McGurk	ct Luckhurst b Luckhurst	12
Jamie Taylor	b Luckhurst	0
Jim Quirke	b Webster	39
Ronnie Singh	b Webster	41
Ryan Stickings	ct Stear b Wilmer	8
Simon Topham	b Wilmer	4
Oliver Holland	not out	6
Rob Osborne	not out	0
Peter Tungate	did not bat	

Extras 18
Total (8 wickets, 46 overs) 169

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Callum Stuckey	6	0	20	0
James Thomas	12	3	29	0
Tim Luckhurst	12	2	36	2
John Webster	11	2	50	3
Stuart Wilmer	5	1	28	2

Willesborough 1st XI

		Runs
John Webster	ct Singh b Topham	60
Graeme Marsh	ct Osborne b Taylor	17
Stuart Wilmer	not out	83
Lewis Back	not out	1
Vishal Sajikumar	did not bat	
Robert Ades	did not bat	
Jez Sharp	did not bat	
Darren Stear	did not bat	
Tim Luckhurst	did not bat	
Callum Stuckey	did not bat	
James Thomas	did not bat	

Extras 12
Total (2 wickets, 35.4 overs) 173

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Jim Quirke	6	0	27	0
Oliver Holland	12	2	43	0
Jamie Taylor	4	1	26	1
Simon Topham	5.4	0	41	1
Ronnie Singh	6	3	17	0
Peter Tungate	2	0	16	0

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

The Mote 3rd XI v Mersham Sports 1st XI

MERSHAM Sports continue to impress at the top of Regional League Championship East after recording a comfortable 104-run win at The Mote.

Mersham batted first and it was Darren Pugh that set the pace with a brisk half-century. After a brief wobble, Alan Stevens (89) and Rob Wilson (61) pushed Mersham on the way to 272 for 6.

The Mote struggled to chase down the score as a steady flow of runs was rapidly followed by the loss of wickets. The Mote were bowled out for 168 with five bowlers in amongst the wickets.

Mersham Sports 1st XI

		Runs
Darren Pugh	ct Kumar b Waite	56
David Harman	ct Presnel b Kumar	4
E Holland-Kemp	ct Crowhurst b Waite	7
Alan Stevens	run out	89
Rob Wilson	b Feltham	61
Dave Fagg	run out	11
Matthew Fagg	not out	12
William Colthup	not out	1
John Southern	did not bat	
Dan Coulson	did not bat	
Jack Wilson	did not bat	

Extras (5b 9lb 16w 1nb) 0
Total (6 wickets, 46 overs) 272

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Kieran Kumar	6	1	28	0
Alex Presnell	11	3	54	1
Nathan Waite	12	1	57	2
Dan Taylor	11	0	70	0
Chris Feltham	6	0	49	1

The Mote 3rd XI

		Runs
Robert O'Brien	.ct Harman b Fagg	25
Jonathan Crowhurst	.st Colthup b Stevens	17
James Higgins	.ct Wilson b Fagg	4
Rajeevan Raveendran	b Fagg	4
Chris Feltham	.ct Wilson b Pugh	28
Jason White	b Coulson	14
Dan Taylor	.ct Fagg b Wilson	24
Nathan Waite	.ct Wilson b Pugh	12
Alex Presnell	.ct Fagg b Coulson	4
Kieran Kumar	.lbw b Stevens	0
Chris Bunday	not out	0

Extras (4b 9lb 23w) 0
Total (all out, 44.5 overs) 168

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Darren Pugh	12	4	43	2
Matthew Fagg	12	3	44	3
Alan Stevens	10	2	15	2
Jack Wilson	3	0	17	0
Dan Coulson	4.5	0	19	2
Rob Wilson	3	0	17	1

Town end ground-share agreement with Stones

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

ASHFORD Town have terminated their ground-share agreement with Ryman Premier League side Maidstone United, according to club chairman Don Crosbie.

Maidstone United had agreed to a three-year deal to play their home games at Ashford Town's Homelands ground this time last season, but an alleged infringement regarding the use of a commercial television company at the ground has brought about a premature end to the arrangement.

Ashford issued a release earlier this month saying the ground-share agreement was unlikely to continue this season due to a serious breach in the arrangement. Maidstone issued an immediate response denying any wrong doing and Stones chairman Paul Bowden-Brown said he was unaware of any violation of the agreement.

However, Crosbie's latest statement says the agreement between the two clubs has now been "terminated with immediate effect", effectively leaving the Stones homeless with just four-and-a-half weeks before the start of the season.

The statement read: "The background to this matter is subject to legal proceedings and therefore Ashford Town Football Club cannot comment in detail at this stage, save as to say it is due to infringements regarding the illegal showing of the commercial satellite television without the necessary licences for the past year at the Homelands Stadium.

"Maidstone United Football Club had entered into an agreement for the installation and broadcasting of commercial satellite television which appears to have happened illegally as no satellite viewing licence has been obtained by MUFC from Sky. The commercial satellite television company concerned contacted Don Crosbie, Ashford Town's chairman and steps have been taken to prevent further infringements of the same kind from occurring to safeguard the club and its supporters. We understand the penalty for infringement is a fine of up to £5,000 per occurrence."

Crosbie added: "I am personally disappointed by the situation which has left me and the club with no option. I am saddened that we have been forced to take such a stance."

The Town chairman also confirmed Ashford remain suspended from all football by the Football Association due to £2,000 of unpaid loan fees owed to Ebbsfleet United. The sanctions were issued last month and Crosbie said earlier this month he hopes to pay the debts to lift the ban in time for the start of the season.



DEFIANT: Chairman Don Crosbie says Maidstone agreement is over

ATHLETICS



FIGHTING FIT: Lisa Dobriskey is working her way to full fitness in time for the European Championships

Lisa's back on track for Euros after injury

BATTLING back from injuries seems to be built into Lisa Dobriskey's DNA as she looks set to shrug off a problem and peak at a major championships for the second successive year.

The 27-year-old has been plagued by injuries and niggles early in the last two seasons, but she again appears to be hitting top form just in time for this month's European Championships.

The Ashford-born 1500-metre runner admitted she was concerned a nagging back injury would hamper her chances of being included in the Great Britain squad for the European Championships in Barcelona.

Despite finishing third in the UK Championships and European Trials last month, she was selected in the squad earlier this month. On Friday she underlined her selection and confirmed her return to form by finishing fourth in a world-class field in the Diamond league meeting in Paris. She posted a season best time of 3.59.79 seconds, but was beaten by Russian Anna Alminova.

With this month's European Championships a chance to underline her reputation as one of the world's best 1500m runners, she feels ready to put aside her injury scares and take on Europe's best.

"My times are starting to come together now so it is looking good that I will peak at the right time," she said. It has been similar to last season but it is quite a different injury compared to last year. It's really been a niggle in my lower back which I have had to have a couple of injections for it and a bit of physio work. It hasn't stopped me running like the injury I had last year, which put me out for two weeks.

"I was a little bit behind this year but after the confidence gained from battling against injury last year I always felt I would be okay. I was a little worried that I wouldn't make the team but after the performances of last year I was in a much stronger position, which has helped me."

This week she heads to a holding camp in Portugal before she begins her tilt for the European gold medal on July 29.



TOP FORM: Ashford athletes were among the winners in the Kent Young Athletics League

Youngsters' success at league meeting

ATHLETICS

ASHFORD Athletic Club enjoyed a successful home meeting in the Kent Young Athletics League at the Julie Rose Stadium.

Ashford fielded a squad of 46 athletes from the track and field meeting which belonged to Kayleigh Miller-Leslie, who won three titles.

The under-15 athlete won the 300-metres, 80m hurdles and claimed the top honours in the long jump. Kirsten Hooten added a win in the javelin with a throw of 23.75m and finished second in the shot with 8.36m and the discus with 19.85m.

Hester Hill picked up valuable points with second place in the 800m, but Ashford's girls were denied the meeting victory by Tonbridge and had to settle with second place. Ashford are third in the overall standings after three meetings.

Elsewhere, Ashford AC sprinter Hadley Pressley won the East Kent Street Athletics Championship for the third time. The 19-year-old will go forward to the National Street Athletics Final on September 11. He finished joint seventh in the 100m at last year's event.



CLOSING IN: Tim Reeves (pictured) is within touching distance of the championship lead

Reeves keeps pressure on in bid for world sidecar crown

MOTORSPORT

TIM Reeves closed the gap in the World Sidecar Championship title race after finishing second at the German round of the series on Sunday.

The Tenterden-born rider has endured a mixed season so far which has been dominated by mechanical issues, but a strong performance at the Sachsenring Circuit has moved him within 20 points of the championship lead.

The weekend started with Reeves and passenger Gregory Cluze struggling to rectify technical problems on the bike, but the pair fixed the issues just in time for Saturday's qualifying session. The 38-year-old produced one of his best results of the season by earning pole position, two tenths

of a second faster than the British pair of Tom and Ben Birchall. Championship leaders Pekka Paivarinta and Adolf Hanni were back in fourth.

Reeves was unable to hold on to the lead into the first corner as German rider Kurt Hock stormed to the front of the pack from the second row of the grid. Hock quickly established a comfortable lead and Reeves soon had his mirrors full of a hard-charging Paivarinta.

The three-time world champion was forced to defend for the remainder of the race and managed to successfully hold on to second spot at the chequered flag.

Reeves returns to action on August 15 for the sixth round of the championship at Scotland's Knockhill circuit. Depending on results, a win could be enough to see him take the championship lead.

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Ex-F1 ace Johnny Herbert helped raise funds for the Henry Surtees Foundation at Buckmore Park



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